

THE FIELD POLL

THE INDEPENDENT AND NON-PARTISAN SURVEY
OF PUBLIC OPINION ESTABLISHED IN 1947 AS
THE CALIFORNIA POLL BY MERVIN FIELD

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Release #2154

Release Date: **Friday, February 25, 2005**

**STRONG SENTIMENT TO RE-ELECT
SCHWARZENEGGER NEXT YEAR. NONE
OF FOUR POSSIBLE DEMOCRATS COMES
CLOSE TO MATCHING THE GOVERNOR'S
PRESENT LEVEL OF SUPPORT.**

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by Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

While he hasn't said so publicly, Arnold Schwarzenegger, who was elected governor in the state's first gubernatorial recall election in 2003, is expected to run for re-election next year. If he were to do so, a majority of voters (56%) say they are inclined to back him.

Four prominent Democrats have been rumored to be considering a run for the governorship in 2006. They include Attorney General Bill Lockyer, State Treasurer Phil Angelides, State Controller Steve Westly and movie director/actor Rob Reiner. When potential Democratic primary election voters are asked who they would prefer in such a match-up, Reiner receives 20% of the preferences, followed by Lockyer at 17%, Angelides at 12% and Westly at 8%. A huge 43% are undecided. If Reiner's name is not included, Lockyer narrowly leads Angelides.

When these possible Democratic candidates are paired against Schwarzenegger in simulated general election match-ups, the governor is preferred in each case by wide margins ranging from 15 to 19 percentage points.

These are the findings of the latest *Field Poll* of voter preferences in next year's gubernatorial election.

Re-elect Schwarzenegger?

Currently there is strong voter sentiment to re-elect Governor Schwarzenegger to serve another term. Overall, by a 56% majority, voters say they are either very or somewhat inclined to re-elect Schwarzenegger. This compares to 42% who are not inclined to support him.

Republicans are overwhelming in their desire for Schwarzenegger to extend his tenure for another four years (88%).

While more than one in four (28%) Democrats are inclined to support Schwarzenegger for another term, a 68% majority are disinclined. A 56% to 40% plurality of non-partisans/others are currently disposed to re-elect Schwarzenegger.

Table 1
Voter inclination to re-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger
to a second term as Governor in 2006
(among registered voters)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Non-partisans/ others</u>
Very inclined	28%	5%	55%	30%
Somewhat inclined	28	23	33	26
Not too inclined	12	16	5	16
Not at all inclined	30	52	6	24
No opinion	2	4	1	4

Image ratings of Schwarzenegger and possible Democratic opponents

Four individuals have been reported to be possible Democratic candidates for that party's 2006 nomination for governor. They are Attorney General Bill Lockyer, State Treasurer Phil Angelides, State Controller Steve Westly, and movie director/actor Rob Reiner.

In this survey, the degree of voter recognition and images of these four possible Democratic candidates was measured along with that of Schwarzenegger.

The findings reveal that overall large portions of voters – majorities in some cases – do not know much about the Democratic possibilities. In the case of Westly 70% of voters has no opinion of him. Six in ten (62%) know little about Angelides and 45% have no opinion of Lockyer. Reiner is somewhat better known, with 64% able to offer an assessment and 36% having no opinion. Among voters who are able to assess each of the Democrats, voter impressions are more favorable than unfavorable.

Schwarzenegger, by comparison, is almost universally known and is rated very favorably (62% to 33%).

Table 2
Recognition and image ratings of people mentioned as
potential candidates for Governor in 2006
(among registered voters)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Non-partisans/ others</u>
<u>Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor</u>				
Favorable	62%	43%	91%	52%
Unfavorable	33	51	9	37
No opinion	5	6	*	11
<u>Rob Reiner, movie director/actor</u>				
Favorable	39%	51%	28%	36%
Unfavorable	25	15	39	21
No opinion	36	34	33	43
<u>Bill Lockyer, Attorney General</u>				
Favorable	37%	37%	35%	40%
Unfavorable	18	16	18	19
No opinion	45	47	47	41
<u>Phil Angelides, State Treasurer</u>				
Favorable	24%	33%	14%	24%
Unfavorable	14	12	14	16
No opinion	62	55	72	60
<u>Steve Westly, State Controller</u>				
Favorable	19%	21%	18%	17%
Unfavorable	11	11	13	9
No opinion	70	68	69	74

* Less than 1/2 of 1%.

Democratic primary election preferences

When asked who they would prefer should all four Democrats run in the Democratic gubernatorial primary next year, the distribution of preferences is Reiner (20%), Lockyer (17%), Angelides (12%) and Westly (8%). More than four in ten (43%) are undecided at this time.

If Reiner's name is removed from the list, Lockyer leads with 20% followed by Angelides at 15%, and Westly at 11%. More than one-half (54%) of potential Democratic primary voters do not offer a choice in this situation.

Table 3
Preferences in the 2006 Democratic primary election for Governor
(among potential Democratic primary voters)*

	<u>With Reiner</u>	<u>Without Reiner</u>
Reiner	20%	---
Lockyer	17	20%
Angelides	12	15
Westly	8	11
Undecided	43	54

* Includes registered Democrats and non-partisans who say they would vote in a Democratic primary.

Schwarzenegger vs. Democrats

When each of the four Democrats is matched against Schwarzenegger in simulated 2006 general election match-ups, the governor currently enjoys comfortable leads of between fifteen to nineteen points over each challenger.

Table 4
Trial heats pairing possible Democratic party candidates vs. Republican
Arnold Schwarzenegger in the Nov. 2006 general election for Governor
(among registered voters)

	<u>Total voters</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Non-partisans/ others</u>
Schwarzenegger (R)	52%	26%	88%	41%
Reiner (D)	37	61	8	37
Undecided	11	13	4	22
Schwarzenegger (R)	52%	30%	88%	35%
Lockyer (D)	34	54	6	40
Undecided	14	16	6	25
Schwarzenegger (R)	52%	25%	91%	41%
Angelides (D)	35	62	5	32
Undecided	13	13	4	27
Schwarzenegger (R)	52%	25%	89%	42%
Westly (D)	33	56	6	32
Undecided	15	19	5	26

(R) denotes Republican
 (D) denotes Democrat

Information About The Survey

Sample Details

The findings in this report are based on a telephone survey of Californians conducted in English and Spanish. Interviews were completed during the period February 8 – 17, 2005 among a representative sample of 800 registered voters, including 376 registered Democrats or non-partisans who say they would vote in a Democratic primary.

Households were sampled using a random digit dial methodology, which includes all operating telephone exchanges within all area codes serving California households in proportion to population. Within each exchange a random sample of telephone numbers are created by adding random digits to the selected telephone exchange. This permits access to all landline telephone numbers both listed and unlisted.

According to statistical theory, 95% of the time results from the overall registered voter sample have a sampling error of +/- 3.5 percentage points, while findings among Democratic primary election voters have a sampling error of 5.3 percentage points.

There are other possible sources of error in any survey other than sampling variability. Different results could occur because of differences in question wording, sampling, or sequencing or through undetected omission or errors in interviewing or data processing. Extensive efforts were made to minimize such potential errors.

Questions Asked

I am going to read the names of some elected officials. For each, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of that person or whether you don't know enough about him or her to have an opinion. (NAMES AND TITLES READ IN RANDOM ORDER) Is your opinion of _____ favorable or unfavorable? (SEE RELEASE FOR NAMES AND TITLES READ)

Suppose that in next year's Democratic primary election for Governor the candidates were (NAMES AND TITLES READ IN RANDOM ORDER). If the Democratic primary election for Governor were being held today and these were the candidates, who would be your first choice? (SEE RELEASE FOR NAMES READ)

Suppose that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger runs for re-election next year. As things stand now, how inclined are you to vote to re-elect Schwarzenegger as Governor – very inclined, somewhat inclined, not too inclined or not at all inclined?

I am going to read some match-ups between possible Democratic and Republican candidates for Governor in next year's general election. For each, please tell me which candidate you would choose if the election for Governor were being held today. (NAMES AND PARTIES OF CANDIDATE PAIRINGS READ IN RANDOM ORDER) If these were the candidates for Governor in next year's general election, for whom would you vote if the election were being held today? (SEE RELEASE FOR PARINGS READ)